



Mallard and Tufted Duck are the determinants of the total Anatidae abundance; these species contribute 48 and 16 % to the total number of ducks recorded, respectively.



EFFECT OF CONSORTIA ON THE SPATIAL STRUCTURE OF COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS

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Studying the relationship between the spatial distribution of communities, populations and the structure of biotopes we neglect the influence of consortia. Hence, the aim of our study was to reveal their effect on the spatial-temporal distribution of wildlife.

Consortium is a structural unit of a biocenosis which comprises organisms on the basis of their local and trophic relationships. Any biotope is non-uniform and consists of consortia, which shape its structure and regime. We distinguish between permanent and temporary consortia.

The main study method was registration of all traces of the animals' activity along 6 fixed routes differing in the characteristics of human impact in the snow and snow-free periods from 2004 to 2009. Biotopes and their consortia were identified along the route. Walking the route we logged all animal tracks using Garmin 60 GPS. OziExplorer, Excel and MapInfo software were employed to analyse long-term data on visitation and track-generating activity of mammals in the consortia. We found that changes in the vegetation component of the consortium cause reconstructing of the spatial and trophic structures of populations and communities. This phenomenon was observed both in permanent and in temporary consortia.

